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NEVINS

NEVINS, ARTHUR

OH-119

87 pgs.

PRCQ (M)

Military associate with Eisenhower in the Philippines, 1936-38, and during World War II; manager of the Eisenhower Gettysburg Farm, beginning in 1950.

DESCRIPTION – Interview #1: Childhood and education; joined army at start of World War I; sent to 57th Infantry at Leon Springs, Texas where Captain Dwight D. Eisenhower was supply officer; anecdotes about officers in the camp; traveled to Philippines in 1936 on same ship as Mamie and John Eisenhower; impressions of fellow officers in the Philippines; comparison between DDE and Douglas MacArthur; served under DDE in War Plans Division; went to London to work with the British Joint Planning Staff; served in AFHQ Operations Division (G-3) in Algiers; some comments on the North African campaign; DDE's personal interest in the American soldier; DDE's revamping of the SHAEF G-2 staff; relationships between American and British officers; DDE's relationships with foreign officers valuable later during his presidency; the George Patton soldier-slapping incident; some incidents during the Sicilian campaign; role of Walter Bedell Smith on DDE's staff; DDE's ability to make decisions.

Interview #2: Operations planning at SHAEF; disliked the Pentagon and retired from military in 1946; serving as a fact checker for DDE when he wrote *Crusade in Europe*; appointed to panel to study aid to Europe; DDE chairman of the panel; asked by DDE in 1950 to manage the farm at Gettysburg; managing both DDE's and George Allen's farms; anecdote about DDE hobby of painting; the 1952 campaign; visits by heads of state to the Gettysburg farm; DDE's work habits; DDE's terminal illness; some impressions of Richard Nixon; Citizens for Eisenhower; political gatherings at the farm; visits to the White House and Camp David; DDE's keen interest in cattle raising and farm operations; wide range of gifts to DDE that were sent to the farm; comments by newspaper columnists about the gifts; felt DDE was tolerant and not too quick in losing his temper; farm expansion and restoration; post-Presidential relaxation on weekends; entertaining at the farm; some comments about Mamie; Lyndon Johnson; speculations about DDE's decision to run for a second term; some additional observations regarding DDE; planting trees for privacy around the farm; DDE's hobbies.

[Columbia Oral History Program, interview by Ed Edwin, April 23 and 24, 1970]